

THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2022

Courant Community

LOCAL NEWS

Chamber gearing up for showcase



Adriane and Les Cropley, of Rocking My SewJo, demonstrated one of their embroidery machines at the 2019 Tolland County Chamber of Commerce Business to Business Showcase. Story, more photos, pages 8-9. **STEVE SMITH/COURANT COMMUNITY**

LOCAL NEWS



E.O. Smith/Tolland's Quentin Wry scores against Conard. **CLOE POISSON/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT**

Conard knocks off top seed in overtime

Each time the Conard High hockey team played E.O. Smith/Tolland, Conard got a little closer. **Page 3**

LOCAL NEWS

Locals celebrating milestones

From a second birthday to an 88th birthday and everywhere in between, we wish them all the best. **Page 4**

LOCAL NEWS

Plate readers discussed in Glastonbury

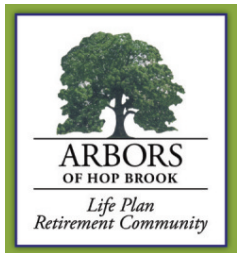
The council wanted some more specific policy in place before acting on installation of the devices. **Page 5**

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Stafford Prayer Shawl Ministry to meet in April

VERNON — STAFFORD — The Stafford Prayer Shawl Ministry meets the second Monday of each month, except July and August, in the Stafford Public Library from 2 to 3 p.m. The date of the next meeting will be on Monday, April 11, at 10 Levinthal Run.

The group welcomes individuals who would like to attend and knit, crochet, or quilt much-needed prayer shawls. Members will teach guests how to knit or crochet. All are welcome.

If you cannot make the meeting but want to make prayer shawls at home, someone will pick them up. If you or your pastor knows of anyone who could use a prayer shawl, the group will arrange for one to be picked up. Contact Karen at 860-982-5896 or Kathy at 860-684-9484 for information or pick-up arrangements.

Women's Club hosting egg fundraiser, kids' fair

SOUTH WINDSOR — The South Windsor Community Women's club wants to Egg your house. Club members are poised to lightly hide eggs and plant lollipop flowers on front lawns on the eve of Easter, April 16.

Eggs are filled with wrapped candies and small toy prizes and/or stickers. Lollipop flowers will be planted in a visible area.

Email info@swcwclub.org to place an order. Eggs are \$15 a dozen or \$12 if you order three or more dozen and lollipop flowers are \$1 each. The club will invoice you after you order for contactless payment. All proceeds go toward scholarships and community causes.

The kids' fair at South Windsor High School, 161 Nevers Road, will take place from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, April 15, after the South Windsor Park and Recreation egg hunt. Games, crafts and snacks will be available.

COVID-19 booster clinic taking place at Bolton Library

BOLTON — The Bentley Memorial Library, 206 Bolton Center Road, is holding a booster clinic sponsored by Hartford Health

Care from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 22. Moderna and Pfizer boosters for ages 12 years or older are available. by appointment.

To book an appointment, you must register for the type of booster you plan to receive. Remember to bring your vaccination card, ID, and (if applicable) your insurance card. You may access the registration links through the Town of Bolton website calendar at town.boltonct.org/calendar. Contact the library at 860-646-7349 for more information or stop by for assistance registering.

Library hosting Outlander party, book club, and more

MANCHESTER — The Manchester Public Library, 586 Main St., is hosting the following programs. Visit <http://library.townofmanchester.org> or call 860-645-0821 for more information or to register.

Check 'Em Out Book Club will meet in person for its March book discussion on Monday, March 14, at 6:30 p.m., to discuss *The Women's March* by Jennifer Chiaverini. Copies of the book are available for check-out at both library buildings. No registration is required for this free in-person program.

Code Club (Grades 6 to 8) will meet Tuesday, March 15, from 3 to 4 p.m. Learn basic coding and meet other coders. The club uses Scratch and Ozoblockly. Members can join at any time. No experience is required. Registration is required.

Adrienne Dowd of Manchester Community College will speak on Irish mythology and legends at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 16, at the Whiton Branch Library, 100 North Main St. Dowd, Professor of English and Composition at MCC, will delve into the history and myths of Irish folklore, mythology, and legends. She will also discuss St. Patrick as a legend and a historical figure. This is a free program for adults but registration is required.

The Sassenachs and Scots Outlander Party will take place from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, March 19. Celebrate the start of the sixth season of *Outlander* and step through the Stones with this fun and free themed party for adults.

From 2:30 to 4 p.m., there will be crafts, games and coloring. From 4 to 4:30 p.m., play *Outlander* themed Bingo and test your knowledge with a quiz. Feel free to dress for the occasion. This program is limited to 20

participants who must call to secure their spot.

At 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 21, a book talk and signing by historian Marty Podskoch will take place. His book, "Connecticut 169 Club: Your Passport & Guide to Exploring Connecticut," encourages travelers to visit all the towns and villages in Connecticut.

Copies of the book will be available for purchase and signing. Registration is required for this free, in-person event for adults.

Middle School Nights for grades six to eight will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. each Wednesday in March. Play a variety of computer and video games with other middle schoolers.

'Coming Together to Help Community Cats With Our Companions Animal Rescue' will take place at 7 p.m. Monday, March 28.

Have you ever wondered about the roaming cats in your neighborhood? Who do they belong to? Who is caring for them? Where do they eat and sleep? What happens if they are sick or injured? How can we prevent more kittens from being born outside? Staff from Our Companions Animal Rescue will share their expertise and ways you can get involved. This is a free in-person program for adults. No registration is required.

Manchester Antiques and Collectibles Show taking place

MANCHESTER — The 59th annual Manchester Antiques and Collectibles Show will be held at Second Congregational Church, 385 North Main St., on Friday, March 18, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday, March 19, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Dealers from all over Connecticut and beyond will offer a wide variety of great items. Lunch is available, including grinders, corn chowder, baked potatoes with toppings, and desserts. Admission is \$5. For more information, call the church office at 860-649-2863.

Zoom series presents 'Connecticut's Forests and Climate Change'

GLASTONBURY — The Land Heritage Coalition of Glastonbury, Inc. will present

the third and final program in a series of virtual presentations entitled, 'Seeing the Forest through the Trees,' focusing on the importance of conserving, protecting, and managing Connecticut's forest resources.

The event will be hosted via Zoom on Wednesday, March 23, at 7 p.m. It is free of charge and open to the public.

This final program is titled "Connecticut's Forests and Climate Change: Examining Climate Change Impacts and Solutions along an Urban-Rural Gradient" and features two local speakers, Dr. Danica Doroski and Andrea Urbano, both from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP).

Doroski, State Urban Forestry Coordinator for CT DEEP, and Urbano, Central District Service Forester (Glastonbury) for CT DEEP, will discuss climate change in the context of Connecticut's urban, suburban, and rural forests.

This will include a discussion of how climate change impacts trees and forests, how these trees and forests can in turn help to offset climate change and how we can manage Connecticut's forests to be resilient in the wake of global climate change.

Visit www.lhcglastonbury.org to register. The LHC will then send a Zoom link via email a day prior to the event to access the program. Registration is limited.

Hillstown Grange hosting spaghetti supper, seed swap

EAST HARTFORD — The Hillstown Grange, 617 Hills St., is holding a spaghetti dinner on Thursday, March 24. Dinner starts at 6 p.m. and cost is \$5.

Following dinner, a free seed giveaway and a seed swap will take place. Bring any extra seeds you may have to donate to the swap table.

Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer questions and talk about the Grange's outreach gardening programs. Email Dan Gallagher at daninct@yahoo.com for more info on Master Gardeners and to get on the gardening help email list.

Located in the Hillstown corner of East Hartford, Glastonbury, and Manchester, the Grange is one of the oldest Agricultural

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Courant Community

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To submit Good Neighbor items, birthday greetings, engagement or wedding announcements, email community@courant.com.

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Conard knocks off top seed E.O. Smith/Tolland 2-1 in overtime

By Lori Riley
Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — Each time the Conard High hockey team played E.O. Smith/Tolland, Conard got a little closer.

The first time Conard lost by five goals. The second, by two. The third, by one.

In the Division III quarterfinals, the two CCC South teams faced off once again at Trinity College's Koeppe Center rink, and this time, ninth-seeded Conard prevailed, scoring a goal with just over a minute left to tie the score and then another 3:12 into overtime to beat top-seeded E.O. Smith/Tolland, 2-1.

"After the first beating they gave us, our guys could've folded right then," Conard coach Jason Olson said. "We were at a point in the season where things weren't going our way and it pretty much could have been a slide the rest of the year but these guys are incredible. They fought, they turned it around."

Conard was to face Bethel-Brookfield-Danbury, a 2-1 winner over New Milford, in the Division III semifinals, on March 14.

Brian Fehl scored the first goal for Conard (10-10-2) to tie the score at 1-1 with 1:03 left in the game. A shot had bounced off the post and Fehl grabbed the puck and put it in.

Riding that momentum, Conard came out fired up in the overtime period. Jack Wenz scored the game-winner.

"We kept improving as a team on all fronts," Wenz said. "Everything we've done in the last three months pays off in moments like this. I was the lucky one, I happened to score that goal, but it was a front to back team effort."

On Jan. 15, the Bucks beat Conard 5-0.

"[We learned] that we needed to fight a lot harder than we had been," Wenz said. "That we had some work to do during practice. After that game, everybody decided to start approaching every practice with a new attitude, something we hadn't done before."

E.O. Smith/Tolland beat Conard 2-0 in the last regular season game on Feb. 23 and once more in the CCC South tournament semifinal game, 2-1.

The Bucks scored their first goal in the second period on a Conard power play when Wry got the puck on a breakaway with Cameron Sterling. Wry passed it to Sterling, Sterling passed it back and Wry scored with 9:34 left in the period.

They appeared in control of the game, until the last minute.

"It's been a long time coming," Olson said. "We've played these guys three out of the last four games and all three of them, we've ended the game with our goalie pulled, trying to score a tying goal. And to finally get it in this game, it was good. The guys got what they deserved. They've been working hard."



E.O. Smith's Damien Till (9) fights for the puck against Conard's Tyler West (28) and Aiden Emery (3) in their game at Williams Rink at Trinity College, March 9, 2022. Conard won in sudden death overtime. **CLOE POISSON / SPECIAL TO THE COURANT**



Conard's Aiden Emery (3) moves the puck against E.O. Smith's Zachary Stoltzberg (2) in their game at Williams Rink at Trinity College, March 9, 2022. Conard won in sudden death overtime. **CLOE POISSON / SPECIAL TO THE COURANT**



Conard goalie Graydon Selstad (29) makes a save against E.O. Smith in their game at Williams Rink at Trinity College, March 9, 2022. **CLOE POISSON / SPECIAL TO THE COURANT**

Community News

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groups in the United States. For more information, email hillstowngrange@aol.com or call Frank at 860-690-2845.

E. Hartford Garden Club offering \$750 scholarship

EAST HARTFORD – The East Hartford Garden Club will award one \$750 scholarship to any full or part time student who is a resident of Andover, Bolton, Bloomfield, Coventry, East Hartford, East Windsor, Glastonbury, Manchester, Middletown, Vernon, Storrs or Windsor Locks.

The student must be majoring in horticulture, floriculture, landscape design, conservation, forestry, environmental concerns, botany and other allied subjects.

Applications with the submittal instructions are available at the Guidance Department of the attending school. All completed applications must be received by April 1 to be considered.

'Connecticut Icons' program taking place

VERNON – A meeting with Charles Monagan, author of 12 books, including Connecticut Icons, will take place at 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 23, at Rockville Public Library, 52 Union St.

Monagan will talk about his favorite things in Connecticut. This is an in-person program and seats are limited. Visit <https://www.rockvillepubliclibrary.org/event/connecticut-icons/> or call 860-875-5892 to register.

'The Town of Iron Toys' will take place at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 24. Join Richard Franklin Donohue, Historian for the Town of Cromwell, as he demonstrates his collection of mechanical banks and explains their history and the amusing tales that inspired

their design.

This is an in-person program and seats are limited. Visit <https://www.rockvillepubliclibrary.org/event/the-town-of-iron-toys/> or call 860-875-5892, ext. 3916, to register.

[subhead]Plunge to benefit Special Olympics coming up[/subhead]

TOLLAND – All are invited to sign up for the Tolland Penguin Plunge, hosted by officers with the Connecticut State Police, Troop C and UConn Police Department, to benefit Special Olympics Connecticut. The Plunge will take place at Crandall Park on Saturday, March 26.

Participants will jump into the chilly water to support Special Olympics' year-round sports, health and fitness programs for athletes around the state and help create communities that accept and include people of all abilities.

Crandall Park is located at 120 Cider Mill Road in Tolland. Check-in will begin at 11 a.m. and the Plunge will take place at noon. Visit soct.org to register.

Registration is \$25 and participants are asked to raise an additional \$75 to support Special Olympics athletes. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged. For more information visit soct.org, email specialolympicsct@soct.org or call 203-230-1201.

[subhead]Tolland Library hosting D&D program, library tech expo[/subhead]

TOLLAND – The Tolland Public Library is hosting the following program for children, pre-teens, and teens. How To Play D&D will take place Saturday, March 19, from noon to 1:30 p.m.

Jerry Rapone of The Winding Way Tabletop Adventures is hosting a special workshop for young adults. Learn the basics of D&D, get world-building advice, and gain the wisdom of a true Dungeon Master. Seating is limited and registration is required. The free program is for ages 12 and above. Visit Tolland.org/library or call 860-871-3621 for more info.

The Library Tech Expo will take place Saturday, April 2, from 1 to 3 p.m. Learn about the technology available to patrons of all ages: Virtual reality, iPads, Macs, PCs, and more. This is a free, all ages event.

Register online to reserve your time slot in the Discovery Center. Call 860-871-3621 or visit tolland.org/library for more information.

Party in the Park Springfest taking place

WINDSOR LOCKS – The Town of Windsor Locks Community Advisory team is planning a Party in the Park Springfest on Saturday, May 21, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The festival will take place at Veterans Memorial Park located on Southwest Avenue. Visit <https://windsorlocksct.org/> in the coming weeks for more information.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Courant Community will print a current birthday photo FREE in one edition. Submit a current photo and 15-word description including name, age, birthday, town, your name, daytime phone number to community@courant.com or to Courant Community, P.O. Box 569, Hartford, CT 06141. Please submit three weeks in advance to avoid disappointment.



Happy 13th Birthday, Anthony (3/23): "To this handsome and smart teenager. We love you, Anthony. Love, Sal and Robin."



Happy 2nd Birthday, Michael (3/24): "To our sweet, smart, and silly little man. We love you pokey. Love, Mimi and Nonno."



Happy 11th Birthday, Abe (3/31): "Wishing our future Patriots player nothing but the best! Love, Nana and Grandpa."



Happy 4th Birthday, Jacob (3/19): "To our sweet, cool dude! We love you. Grandpa and Grandma."



Happy 60th Birthday, Bill (3/17): "We love you! Fran, Angela, Joel, Joe, and Morgan."



Happy 4th Birthday, Hunter (3/16): "Wishing you a wonderful year. Love you to the moon and back. Grandma & Grandpa P"



Happy 7th Birthday, Madison (3/8): "Our precious granddaughter. Beautiful, smart, funny, lovable. Love you always, Oma & Opa."



Happy 88th Birthday, Ralph (3/5): "With love from your family."

CROSSWORD ANSWERS FOR TODAY'S PUZZLE



Glastonbury council wants more information on plate readers

By Steve Smith
Courant Community

GLASTONBURY — Several residents voiced their support for Glastonbury police to add plate readers to their vehicles, but the council wanted some more specific policy in place, due to some privacy issues, before acting on installation of the devices.

At its meeting on March 8, the council heard from several residents - both in favor of and against the reader devices.

Town Manager Richard Johnson said that motor vehicle thefts and crime, which have been on the rise, has resulted in several residents urging the town and the department to deploy plate readers, which are mounted either at stationary sites, or on the back of police vehicles and scan other vehicles' plates.

Police Chief Marshall Porter said he is seeking the stationary readers only, which would be placed at key intersections in town. He added that 13 locations are planned and would be made public.

Software compiles the plate information and alerts officers when a nearby plate belongs to a stolen car, a driver with a suspended license, or a vehicle or driver wanted in connection with another crime.

Porter said that law enforcement can use the technology, as has been by other departments for decades.

"They are high-speed cameras that recognize, capture, and store images of vehicles and their registrations," Porter said, "but they do not capture personal identifying information."

The data, Marshall said, is compared to "hot lists" of vehicles important to police investigations, including vehicles associated with a wanted person, a missing person, or criminal activity. The match takes places within seconds and officers are alerted.

"I strongly oppose the use of license plate readers by Glastonbury police," said Evelyn Eisenhardt, a Lenox Drive resident, via written comment. "These devices are an unwarranted and largely unregulated invasion of the privacy of Glastonbury citizens."

Others called the readers "intrusive," and "a waste of taxpayer money," and said the data is prone to misuse by police officers and could be vulnerable to hackers.

State Rep. Jill Barry, also a resident of Glastonbury, voiced her support for the readers - due to the increased crime and violence in the area.

"With the proper tools, some of these crimes could be prevented with just the



Several residents voiced their support for Glastonbury police to add plate readers to their vehicles, but the council wanted some more-specific policy in place, due to some privacy issues, before acting on installation of the devices. **FILE**

identification of a stolen car," Barry said. "The use of license plate readers could solve problems before they start."

Others also supported the use of readers. "The people in town have experienced things I never have in the 30 years I've been here," one resident said. "If the chief says it's going to help him investigate and solve crimes, I'm with him."

Council member Deb Carroll asked whether citizens can request data from plate readers, under the Freedom of Information Act.

"That, I struggle with a lot," Carroll said.

Porter said that any information can be requested through FOIA, but it's a matter of debate whether it would be accessed that way.

"It is on my mind and we would always obey applicable law with regards to FOIA," he said. "There is some disagreement about whether that information is FOIA-able."

Porter added that there are tech precautions in place for those who access the data, which records who is logging in, and why. Each town, he added, has its own vehicle of interest "hot list."

Porter said the privacy concerns would be mitigated through the department's policy of how data is handled, as well as protocols within the software itself.

Council Chair Tom Gullotta said that no action need be taken, as the item is in the town's proposed budget, and will come up in those discussions, and added that he'd like to see a policy from the police department before it is passed.

"I'd like to see one before this issue is resolved," Gullotta said. "I'd also be interested in terms of what consequences, if someone breaks this policy, may be."

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FHS17

Richard Rosenthal's dining empire sold to partners

By Kenneth R. Gosselin
Hartford Courant

After a more than three-decade career at the forefront of greater Hartford's dining out scene, Richard Rosenthal — the entrepreneurial force behind the Max restaurants — is retiring from the company he founded in 1986, selling his share to his partners.

Rosenthal's flagship restaurant Max Downtown has been a Hartford landmark since the mid-1990s and the Max name also became well established in the surrounding suburbs — Avon, Glastonbury, West Hartford — and just over the state line in Massachusetts.

Rosenthal will remain as a consultant, most likely involved in menu development and scouting locations for new restaurants. Rosenthal said Monday the company's management structure in which restaurants are run by partners in the company will position the company well as he steps back from a day-to-day post.

"It made me feel this restaurant group could go on very strongly without me, with my limited guidance as a consultant," Rosenthal said, in a telephone interview from Florida.

The collection of 10 restaurants cannot be described as a chain because each brand is separate and distinct, ranging from the more upscale Max Downtown to Savoy Pizzeria in West Hartford and Max Burger, with two locations, in West Hartford and Longmeadow, Mass.

Rosenthal, who will turn 65 this month, said he also considered in making the decision both his age and the long, exhausting slog through a pandemic that is now in its third year.

"The pandemic has been a punch in everyone's gut," Rosenthal said.

Rosenthal declined to comment on the amount for which he sold his share of the company.

"It's not a huge number," Rosenthal said. "I'm more excited about these guys progressing than me cashing out."

Scott Smith, who joined the company in the early 1990s and long has served as chief operating officer, will succeed Rosenthal as chief executive of a company that now employs 900.

Smith will share top managing with Steven Abrams, Rosenthal's college roommate who also has been with the Max restaurants since the early days. Abrams is a partner in Max Downtown, Max's Oyster Bar and Trumbull Kitchen.

Partners also include Bob Cooke, Max Oyster Bar; John Thomas, Max Tavern; Doug Kelly, Max Burger; Chris Torla, Trumbull Kitchen; Hunter Morton, Max Catering; Brian Costa, Max Fish; and Will Penenori, The Cooper Craft Kitchen & Bar. Middle-



Richard Rosenthal, founder and chief executive of the Max Restaurant Group is retiring from the company he founded in 1986.

town-based Liberty Bank provided financing for the deal.

"Everyone can have the confidence that we are going to continue on and run the type of company that everyone has been accustomed to," Smith said Monday. "People shouldn't expect a huge change."

Rosenthal said he started seriously thinking about stepping away from day-to-day responsibilities about a year ago when there was an offer to buy the restaurant company.

"It was a strategy to take Max's and turn it into a bigger number, Rosenthal said. "We never ran this business as a business to sell. We opened a restaurant and our goal was to be great, not what our next deal was."

"And this guy was going to be about the next deal, the next phase, which private equity company was going to buy us, that kind of thing," Rosenthal said. "It was going to change the culture drastically."

Rosenthal declined to name the buyer. Smith credited Rosenthal with the

patience to wait for the right time and opportunity to open a new restaurant, in one instance waiting five years between openings.

Deep roots in Hartford dining

Rosenthal — long interested in the restaurant business back to his days busing and waiting tables in high school — first staked out turf in Hartford in 1986, opening Max-on-Main with his wife, Vicki. The restaurant was quickly a hit with reservations booked for weeks.

As an entrepreneur, Rosenthal also saw opportunities in the suburbs, first opening up Max A Mia Ristorante in Avon and Max Amore in Glastonbury.

Rosenthal rode the heady wave of the go-go 1980s, but he also saw the lows of a devastating recession that hit Hartford hard

in the early 1990s and then again in 2008.

"The pandemic has definitely been the biggest challenge," Rosenthal said.

A decade after opening Max-on-Main, Rosenthal doubled the size of his downtown space, closing Max-on-Main and launching Max Downtown on the ground floor of City-Place, where it operates today.

Rosenthal has closed just one other restaurant, Max Amore, in Glastonbury. He said the restaurant did not go out of business, but, after 25 years, Max Amore had run its course, as sales slipped.

"We felt we could do a refresh, but it wouldn't be fresh," Rosenthal said. "It was a little tired there, and we didn't want to re-invent it, and the rent was very high."

Rosenthal's success came with his keen eye for changing tastes in menus and experience. In 2019, a \$1.6 million renovation of Max Downtown was aimed also at attracting a hip, younger crowd and getting away from the image of the restaurant being "your father's place."

Demanding excellence, Rosenthal acknowledged Monday that he could be tough on employees, more so in the early days of the company.

With Rosenthal's departure the name of the company will change from Max Restaurant Group to Max Hospitality, recognizing that that "great food and service" are part of a larger experience of hospitality, Smith said.

The fall-out from the pandemic still lingers, Smith said.

"We're still picking up the pieces from Covid," Smith said. "We've always had low turnover and so, even though we still have a lot of veterans working for us, we probably have 10-15 people in each restaurant that are relatively new and getting them established and getting them to understand our standards — our 'Never Say No' attitude — is a trick."

Scott Dolch, president and chief executive of the Connecticut Restaurant Association, praised Rosenthal's contributions both in dining and in the community.

"In addition to employing hundreds and hundreds of people, Rich and his partners have been leaders in their communities, supporting important causes throughout the greater Hartford region," Dolch said.

During the pandemic, the Max Cares Foundation provided aid to displaced restaurant workers and their families, even beyond the Max workforce.

Though Rosenthal is now stepping away, he said he is protective of the legacy of the restaurant group.

"Max was named after the my grandfather, so I have a family responsibility there," Rosenthal said.

— Kenneth R. Gosselin can be reached at kgosselin@courant.com.

GOOD NEIGHBOR

Your reader-to-reader column

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DESK: Seeking desk in good condition with medium color wood or lighter. Glastonbury area. 860-430-2994 or 860-368-8087.

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TABLET ASSISTANCE: Seeking someone to set up tablet and phone. Will pay. 860-666-5699.

FOUND: Baseball Card in protective plastic cover found in Marlborough, Connecticut in 2014, unintentionally tucked away, and recently uncovered. Send an email to cs-137@outlook.com with an accurate description of the card, and we'll get it back to the owner.

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Eyeglasses found on Carriage Drive, Manchester. 860-646-4242.

AUTO MECHANIC: Seeking auto mechanic to repair pickup truck. Am senior citizen, phone with reasonable price. 860-796-6132.

FURNITURE: Seeking a light wooden chest having five drawers in good condition. Call after 5 p.m. 860-665-0141.

LOST BRACELET: Bracelet lost at ALDIs of Rocky Hill by carriages. It was a birthday gift. Call if found. 860-778-8556.

PUZZLE SWAP: Will meet half way if too far to go. Have 20, most new. 860-568-1378.

SEEKING: Small boat trailer for a 12' boat, will buy. 860-741-2633.

NECKLACE FOUND: On Carillon Drive, Rocky Hill. Call with description for return. 860-965-6672. Messages will be returned.

SNOW SHOVELING HELP:

Senior looking for an individual to shovel out parking space and clean off car after snow storms in Collinsville. 860-305-6701.

CAR: Seeking automobile to help out with transportation in 2022. Elderly with low Social Security. 860-515-1488.

LAPTOPS: Collecting used or new laptops from kind donors. These laptops will be donated to school kids in Ghana. Contact Ben, 423-676-8815.

NAUTICAL ROPE: Looking for free ½- or ¾-inch nautical rope for DIY projects. 860-490-8956.

PROPANE: Seeking propane Salamander. Will pay a reasonable price. 860-749-2190.

LAWN MOWING, SNOW

REMOVAL: Does anyone know of someone who mows grass and/or plows snow? 860-289-0101 after 5 p.m.

CAR: Seeking a donated good running car for elderly person in Putnam for doctor appointments. Cannot afford one. 508-335-5060. Leave a message.

Community News

from Page 4

Library hosting wellness program, UFO experience talk

WINDSOR LOCKS — Director of Access Physical Therapy Windsor Locks, David Chessen, will be returning to the Windsor Locks Library on Thursday, March 17, at 3:30 p.m. to discuss dizziness, vertigo, and vestibular conditions.

This program will take place in-person with an option to attend live at home via Zoom. Learn about disruptions to the vestibular system that can provoke symptoms including vertigo, dizziness, headaches, and loss of balance.

Chessen will teach positioning techniques that can treat these conditions and reduce symptoms. Register online at www.windsorlockslibrary.org/programs or call 860-627-1495. In-person attendees must wear a mask.

The library rescheduled its UFO Experience program for Saturday, March 26, at 1 p.m. Join in person with local best-selling author Stephen Spignesi.

Spignesi will be presenting on his book “The Big Book of UFO Facts, Figures, and Truth.” Space is limited. Masks are required. Register online at www.windsorlockslibrary.org/programs if you were not previously registered for the original date, or call 860-627-1495.

Voting open for nonprofits to win donation funds

AREA — American Eagle Financial Credit Union invites the public to support its favorite area non-profit as the Credit Union opens its latest round of voting for Cash Back to the Community. Voting will continue until March 20, at which point the three highest voter getters will receive a donation from American Eagle to support their community initiatives.

Visit americaneagle.org/cashbacktothecommunity to view the list of nominees. CT Cat Connection of Windsor was one of three nonprofits to win the previous round of American Eagle's Cash Back to the Community, resulting in a \$9,598 donation from American Eagle FCU.

Employees donate to Mary's Place in Windsor

WINDSOR — Employees from American Eagle Financial Credit Union recently made a donation of \$2,670 to Mary's Place in Windsor. In total, AEFUCU employees donated nearly \$50,000 to local charities in 2021.

The recipients of American Eagle employees' latest donations include Mary's Place, \$2,670 donation; The United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut, \$3,836 donation; Credit Unions Building Financial Independence Foundation, \$2,670 donation; and The American Eagle Financial Credit Union Fund, \$3,950 donation.

Mary's Place provides an atmosphere of trust for children and families who are grieving a death and a safe place where they can share their experiences, receive support and find comfort.

“Because the grieving and healing process is open-ended and unique to each individual, this generous donation from American Eagle employees will be used to support our ongoing programs and the services we provide to all those who seek our services,” said Brittany Sheehan, Executive Director of Mary's Place.

Invasive species forum taking place virtually

AREA — A virtual forum, ‘Invasive or Noninvasive: That is the Question’ will take place from 7 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, March 23.

Are there unwanted and unidentifiable plants creeping into your backyard, gardens, or landscape? They could be considered an invasive species.

Find out more from the Conservation Commission's Brad Robinson, former environmentalist at DEEP, on various invasive plant species affecting our native environments and becoming an increasing problem will be discussed. Visit <https://townofwindsorct.com/conservation-commission/invasiveplants/> for more information or to access the Zoom link.

Lions Club seeking crafters, vendors

ENFIELD — The Enfield Lions Club is preparing for its annual Rent-A-Space sale taking place from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday April 30, in the Enfield Street School parking lot, 1318 Enfield St.. Crafters and vendors may sign up for two parking spaces for \$25. The event is rain or shine. For more details or to reserve a space, call 860-745-1141.

Church hosting program on health insurance for seniors

SOMERSVILLE — A program on health insurance and financial help programs for seniors will take place at noon Thursday, March 24, at Somers Congregational Church, 599 Main St.

A representative from the Northeast Area Agency on Aging and the Town of Somers Social Services will present the program. Guests may feel free to bring their own sandwich. Dessert and beverages will be provided.

Topics to be discussed are the difference between Medicare and Medicaid, the differences between traditional Medicare and Medicare Advantage plans, what hospice care covers, what insurance coverage is there for long term custodial care, and what financial help programs are available through Town of Somers Social Services. There will be time for questions. Pre-registration is required by calling the church office at 860-763-4021. All are welcome to attend.

Library to present ‘Ordinary Extraordinary Women’

ENFIELD — ‘Ordinary Extraordinary Women: Honoring the Unrenowned & Forgotten’ will take place at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 23, at the Enfield Public Library, 104 Middle Road.

In celebration of Women's History Month, *Mari-Turn to Community News*, Page 11

Be a good neighbor

To submit, send an email to community@courant.com or mail to 285 Broad St., Hartford, CT 06115. Good Neighbor is a service by Courant Community. Questions and answers are provided by our readers and are not verified. Medical information cannot be published. Caution should be exercised at all times. The publisher is not responsible for damage to any person or property.

Chamber gearing for Business to Business Showcase

By Steve Smith
Courant Community

VERNON — After a two-year hiatus, the Tolland County Chamber of Commerce is gearing up for one of its signature events, the Business to Business Showcase, on April 5.

The 13th annual event was held in 2019, and planning for 2020 was well under way, but the event, like so many others, was canceled when the pandemic hit full swing in March of that year.

This year, the event will take place at Georgina's of Bolton, and will feature many of the same amenities. Visitors will be able to interact with vendors from across Tolland County, and business owners will have the opportunity to network with each other.

Chamber Executive Director Melissa Smith said she's excited to have a return to in-person networking and thinks the new location will give the benefit of more traffic.

"Georgina's is a great place to host this and right at the crossroads of Routes 6, 44, and 384," she said, adding that several vendors have signed up already and there is room for more.

Vendor spaces are \$200 for members and \$250 for non-members.

"In these times, it's so important to network with other businesses, and this event puts them all in one spot," Smith said.

The event takes place from 4 to 7 p.m. and will feature opportunities to sample items from vendors and learn about products and services from local businesses.

A select menu will be available, and a cash bar. A 50% raffle will also take place.

The Business to Business Showcase Silver Sponsors are The Vascular Experts, American Eagle Financial, State Farm Insurance, and Home Instead of Northeastern Connecticut.

For more information, visit www.tollandcountychamber.org.



Maneely's Events Manager Rebecca Dorsey, chamber staffer Janet Connors, and United Bank Vice President and District Manager Nathan Gompfer enjoy the Business to Business Showcase. **STEVE SMITH/COURANT COMMUNITY**



Former Tolland County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director (and now Chamber Executive Director) Melissa Smith at the Business to Business Showcase in 2019. **ANNIE GENTILE/SPECIAL TO COURANT COMMUNITY**



This beautiful calico, **Petra** was saved by her own persistence! Her former owner sold the house and, according to neighbors, dumped her cats down the street when she moved. Petra kept showing up at her old home so the new owners reached out for help. She has calmed down and she is very sweet, is not aggressive and, once she feels safe, she loves to purr and be brushed. If you sit on the floor and give her treats, she will sit on your legs. Let's show Petra how to live the good life!

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WWW.CTCATCONNECTION.ORG

Meet Missy!

Missy was voted as the 2021 Class Clown and runner up for the Life of the Paw'ty dog! She is sure to brighten your day with her funny personality! Her favorite things to do are running in the play yards and going on adventures! She'd like a single family home, be the only animal, active teens or adults, a family that is well versed in pit bull ways, and a fenced-in yard. Stats: 3 yo, 50 lbs, crate trained. To learn more, please contact Our Companions at

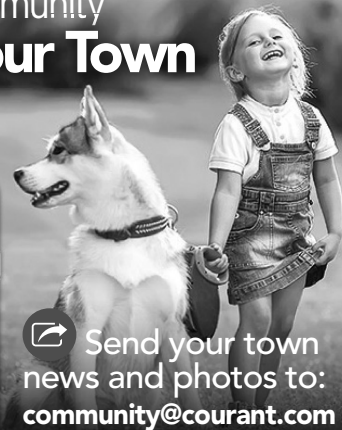


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...now consultant) Candice Corcione chats with John Pastorelle, of St. Michael IT Solutions, LLC. at the
COURANT COMMUNITY



Katie Shevat and Jessica Rein were serving up dill pickles, at the Rein's Deli booth. **STEVE SMITH / COURANT COMMUNITY**



Adriane and Les Cropley, of Rocking My SewJo, demonstrated one of their embroidery machines at the 2019 event. **STEVE SMITH/COURANT COMMUNITY**

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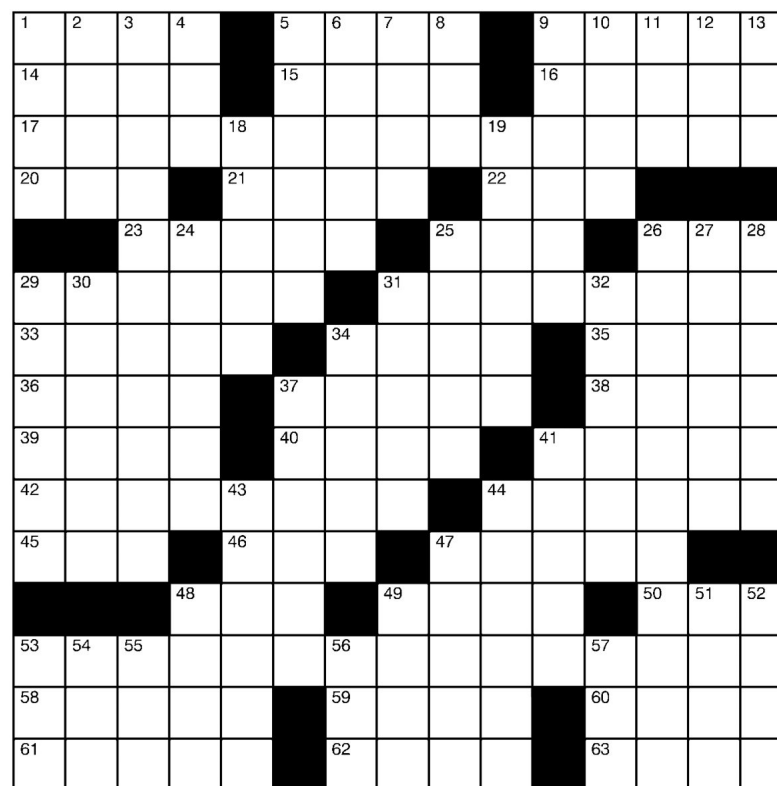
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LOCAL NEWS

CROSSWORD Solution located elsewhere in this section

Name Game



CREATORS NEWS SERVICE

By Neil Manausa

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Community News

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ann Millard's presentation will educate and entertain on the topic of unsung or forgotten heroines in the U.S. and around the world for their individual contributions.

Many of the women featured would have considered themselves just ordinary women, ones who simply didn't take "no" for an answer, confident they were on the right path, even if that path would never be recognized until now. This is a chance to acknowledge and admire these amazing women for what they achieved and why they did so. The program is designed to be lively, humorous, and engaging.

Millard is a world traveler and the tour director of Meander with Mariann. All programs at the Enfield Public Library are free and all are welcome. Visit www.enfield-publiclibrary.org or call 860-763-7553 for more information.

E. Hartford Garden Club offering \$750 scholarship

EAST HARTFORD — The East Hartford Garden Club will award one \$750 scholarship to any full or part time student who is a resident of Andover, Bolton, Bloomfield, Coventry, East Hartford, East Windsor, Glastonbury, Manchester, Middletown, Vernon, Storrs or Windsor Locks.

The student must be majoring in horticulture, floriculture, landscape design, conservation, forestry, environmental concerns, botany and other allied subjects.

Applications with the submittal instructions are available at the Guidance Department of the attending school. All completed applications must be received by April 1 to be considered.

COVID-19 booster clinic taking place at Bolton Library

BOLTON — The Bentley Memorial Library, 206 Bolton Center Road, is holding a booster clinic sponsored by Hartford Health Care from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 22. Moderna and Pfizer boosters for ages 12 years or older are available, by appointment.

To book an appointment, you must register for the type of booster you plan to receive. Remember to bring your vaccination card, ID, and (if applicable) your insurance card. You may access the registration links through the Town of Bolton website calendar at town.boltonct.org/calendar. Contact the library at 860-646-7349 for more information or stop by for assistance registering.

Library hosting Outlander party, book club, and more

MANCHESTER — The Manchester Public Library, 586 Main St., is hosting the following programs. Visit <http://library.townofmanchester.org> or call 860-645-0821 for more information or to register.

Check 'Em Out Book Club will meet in person for its March book discussion on Monday, March 14, at 6:30 p.m., to discuss The Women's March by Jennifer Chiaverini. Copies of the book are available for check-out at both library buildings. No registration is required for this free in-person program.

Code Club (Grades 6 to 8) will meet Tuesday, March 15, from 3 to 4 p.m. Learn basic coding and meet other coders. The club uses Scratch and Ozoblockly. Members can join at any time. No experience is required. Registration is required.

Adrienne Dowd of Manchester Community College will speak on Irish mythology and legends at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 16, at the Whiton Branch Library, 100 North Main St. Dowd, Professor of English and Composition at MCC, will delve into the history and myths of Irish folklore, mythology, and legends. She will also discuss St. Patrick as a legend and a historical figure. This is a free program for adults but registration is required.

The Sassenachs and Scots Outlander Party will take place from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, March 19. Celebrate the start of the sixth season of Outlander and step through the Stones with this fun and free themed party for adults.

From 2:30 to 4 p.m., there will be crafts, games and coloring. From 4 to 4:30 p.m., play Outlander themed Bingo and test your knowledge with a quiz. Feel free to dress for the occasion. This program is limited to 20 participants who must call to secure their spot.

At 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 21, a book talk and signing by historian Marty Podskoch will take place. His book, "Connecticut 169 Club: Your Passport & Guide to Exploring Connecticut," encourages travelers to visit all the towns and villages in Connecticut.

Copies of the book will be available for purchase and signing. Registration is required for this free, in-person event for adults.

Middle School Nights for grades six to eight will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. each Wednesday in March. Play a variety of computer and video games with other middle schoolers.

'Coming Together to Help Community Cats With Our Companions Animal Rescue' will take place at 7 p.m. Monday, March 28.

Have you ever wondered about the roaming cats in your neighborhood? Who do they belong to? Who is caring for them? Where do they eat and sleep? What happens if they are sick or injured? How can we prevent more kittens from being born outside? Staff from Our Companions Animal Rescue will share their expertise and ways you can get involved. This is a free in-person program for adults. No registration is required.

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March
14-27



Shall we... traverse?

By William Heald
Special to Courant Community

While there are a number of attributes a family with a lot of members need in a vehicle, I've always felt the most critical aspect is room. Lots of room.

Vast vistas of expansive emptiness, is what I'm talking about, even if it's in a car that has to be garageable. Big families require space for both occupants and the things that are regularly hauled around on their various chores and activities, and plentiful cargo space also comes in handy for loading up lots of luggage for long trips. Back in the days of TV dinners and network television, the station wagon served for years as the family hauler.

More recently the minivan became the ride of choice for these requirements, but it has now been largely pushed aside by the SUV, and to a larger extent the Crossover SUV such as today's review vehicle, the Chevrolet Traverse. This is a substantially roomier vehicle than the station wagons of old, and boasts available all-wheel-drive and greater ground clearance for light trail duties. But it's the space that is the most popular attribute, and the Traverse excels in this regard as well as possessing several other welcome features ideal for large families.

Big but not excessively porky, the Traverse rides on a 120-inch wheelbase in either front-wheel or all-wheel-drive, and comes in six trim levels including LS, LT cloth, RS, LT leather, Premium and High Country. All are powered by a 3.6-liter V6 engine that develops 310 horsepower, which is channeled through a 9-speed hydra-matic auto-

matic transmission. Our all-wheel-drive High Country test unit featured 2WD, AWD, off-road and tow/haul modes, and is able to pull a 5,000-pound trailer when equipped with an available trailering package. The V6 hauls around the big Traverse with relative ease, and along with the 9-speed gearbox helps deliver respectable fuel economy for such a substantial vehicle.

The cabin of the Traverse is a study in long-haul comfort, especially at the High Country trim level. There's a great mix of traditional GM styling with some contemporary details, including mechanical analog instruments with a central trip computer/info guide and an 8-inch touchscreen with excellent definition in the central stack. Front seating is capacious, with durable leather seating surfaces that are both heated and ventilated.

The second row featured captain's chairs that both slide and recline, with a flat floor and expansive headroom. If you traverse through this impressive seating to the third row, you'll find a perch big enough for two adults and while the floor is a bit high, it's surprisingly habitable. It's certainly a perfect space for kids, and with this row deployed you still have 23 cubic feet of cargo space. Fold the third row and this expands to 57.8, and with the second row folded as well you're looking at 98.2 cubic feet of glorious furniture-swallowing expanse.

The 2022 Chevrolet Traverse High Country AWD is EPA rated 17 MPG city/25 highway and has a base price of \$53,400. With options, the MSRP came to \$54,595. www.chevy.com



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CT State Bird A Sure Sign of Spring

By Dawn Pettinelli, UConn Home & Garden Education Center



To many New Englanders, a sure sign spring is almost here is the arrival of chatty flocks of robins devouring those persistent crabapple fruits and holly berries. Robins do overwinter here, but typically, northern populations migrate further south each fall and return north as the weather warms. Birds may travel 250 miles per day when migrating. Recent research has found that robins are migrating northward about 5 days earlier each decade, likely due to changes in climate conditions.

They are found throughout North America from southern Canada to Florida and from the east to the west coast. There are 7 sub-species of robins in North America with *Turdus migratorius* typically inhabiting the Northeast.

The state bird of Connecticut, American robins are readily recognizable with their dark brown to greyish backs and wings and orangy-red breast feathers. Females are generally duller than the males while juveniles can be distinguished by brown flecks on their chests. All have thin white eye rings and white throats with blackish streaks. The undertail coverts and the belly are also white. Robins' beaks are yellow with black tips. Adults are usually between 9 to 11 inches long with a 14 to 16-inch wingspan. New World settlers called this bird the American robin after their beloved, similarly colored but unrelated European species, robin redbreast.

Robins are adaptable birds, capable of locating food and shelter in unfamiliar surroundings. They typically are found in woody or shrubby locations with patches of open spots. Yards with expanses of grass and large shade trees are inviting habitats for them. They tolerate human activity more than many avian species and their nests are often located under porches or eaves, on wide window ledges, outbuildings, and bridges. These birds will not use a typical nest box. They are platform nesters and look for horizontal branches, crotches or manmade flat surfaces to build their nests on. Nesting platforms are simple to make or can be purchased from businesses selling wild bird accessories.

Shortly after their arrival, robins get to work nest building and raising young. In fact, they are among the earliest of North American birds to begin breeding. Pair bonds are formed and both parents feed and protect their young.

Females build cup-shaped nests from twigs, grasses and other natural items held tight with mud. Fine grasses, plant fibers and feathers make up a softer inner layer. Nests may be anywhere from 5 to 25 feet off the ground. Three to 5 light blue eggs are laid and incubated by the female. Once you see the eggs, you'll know where the term, robin's egg blue, comes from.

After about 14 days, the eggs hatch. The blind, naked baby birds develop quickly with care from their parents. About two weeks later they are ready to leave the nest as fledglings with the parents tending to them until the young birds can forage on their own. The adult pair goes right back to breeding, building a new nest and raising another family. In good years, 3 clutches can be raised.

A robin's diet consists of about 60 percent fruits and berries, either wild or cultivated, and about 40 percent small invertebrates including earthworms, caterpillars, grubs, spiders, and grasshoppers. It is a common sight to see robins running or hopping across a lawn searching for worms and other tasty tidbits. This behavior is more prevalent after mowing or irrigation. Robins also can be found searching for food on newly turned patches of earth.

Robins are very vocal birds and communicate with each other through vocalizations and singing. Often, their rich and complex songs are the first you hear in the morning as they can carry quite a distance. Hear some of their sounds at www.allaboutbirds.org. Perhaps most familiar to us is their 'cheerily cheerup cheerup cheerily cheerup' vocalization.

As breeding season winds down and winter approaches, robins often roost for the night in large flocks. They break into smaller ones to forage during the day. Some head south for the winter but others remain. It used to be rare to spy robins in Connecticut during the winter but now estimates of 40,000 or more are not uncommon. In part, this is due to warmer and shorter winters but also to the proliferation of berry producing invasive plants like Asiatic bittersweet, autumn olive and multiflora rose which can serve as food sources.

As spring draws closer, give thanks for the birdsong of robins and other avian species. They bring life back to our yards and neighborhoods which we'll start to enjoy again as the weather warms.

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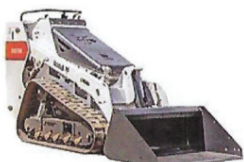
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